

Message Text

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45

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02 NSC-10 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 OIC-04 USIE-00 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 AID-20 IGA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 INRE-00

RSR-01 ACDA-19 /192 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 366

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3508

DEPT FOR MOREY FROM SCALI

USUN FOR BENNETT FROM SCALI

E.O.11652 GDS

TAGS ECOSOC

SUBJ ECOSOC 55-ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR WEST ASIA

REFS USUN 2524 STATE 133757 GENEVA 3484 GENEVA 3483

SUMMARY. AMB SCALI IN SEPARATE MTGS WITH CHINESE AND FRENCH AMBS
ASKED FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN PREVENTING APPROVAL OF DISCRIMINA-
TORY ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA. FRENCH AMB SAID HIS
GOVT WOULD GO ALONG WITH SCALI'S STRATEGY OF POSTPONING CONSIDER-
ATION OF IDEA. CHINESE AMB LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, APPEARED SURPRISED
AT UN LEGAL OPINION SUCH COMMISSION CONFLICTED WITH CHARTER,
PROMISED REPORT TO PEKING PROMPTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AMB DUMAS, SCALI ADVISED HIM OF
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STAVROPOULOS' VIEW LEBANESE PROPOSAL WOULD CONFLICT WITH CHARTER.

SCALI ALSO INFORMED HIM LEBANESE FALL-BACK STRATEGY MIGHT BE TO SET UP COMMISSION LIMITED TO ARAB COUNTRIES. FRENCH REP SAID HE STRONGLY FAVORED SIDE-STEPPING WHOLE MATTER, DELAYING VOTE FOR ANOTHER YEAR. FRENCH REP ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW CREATING SEPARATE ARAB COMMISSION WOULD ALIENATE AFRICANS. HE PROMISED CONTACT LEBANESE REP IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE KNOWN FRANCE'S HOPE HE AGREE TO POSTPONEMENT AND TO MAKE KNOWN HIS VIEW CREATION OF ARAB GROUP WOULD CREATE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

2. IN TALK WITH CHINESE REP WANG, SCALI EMPHASIZED ILLEGALITY OF MOVE, NOTED BOTH USG AND CHINA FIRM SUPPORTERS OF SPIRIT AND LETTER OF CHARTER. SCALI NOTED THAT CREATION OF SPECIAL ARAB ECONOMIC GROUP MIGHT PAVE WAY FOR LATER CREATION OF SEPARATE SOCIALIST COMMISSION WHICH COULD DIRECT ITS ACTIVITIES AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES. CHINESE REP SAID PEKING WOULD NEVER JOIN SOCIALIST GROUP BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, IF CREATED, IT COULD BECOME ANTI-CHINA FACTOR. HE REPORTED LEGALITY ISSUE WAS NEW TO HIM AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT DEVELOPMENT TO PEKING, ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS, AND ADVISE SCALI.

3. CONVERSATION WAS EXCEEDINGLY FRIENDLY BUT AMB WANG MADE NO PROMISES BEYOND THIS.

4. PRIOR T THIS, SCALI, IN TELECON, BRIEFED ISRAELI REP ROSENNE ON DEVELOPMENTS. ROSENNE APPEARED ELATED AT AMERICAN MOVES TO POSTPONE LEBANESE PROPOSAL. SCALI ADVISED ROSENNE, HOWEVER, NOT BECOME ACTIVE BEHIND SCENES LEST ISRAELI LOBBYING REBOUND AGAINST USG ACTIVITIES. SCALI ASKED ROSENNE CONSIDER WHAT HIS GOVT COULD DO AND ASKED THAT HE BE ADVISED BEFORE ANY SPECIAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN.

COMMENT: WE CANVASSING AS DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE ALL REPS ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR NOSE COUNT TO DETERMINE WHETHER LEBANESE PROPOSAL CAN BE BLOCKED IN COMMITTEE BEFORE IT REACHES COUNCIL. PROSPECTS NO BETTER THAN 50-50, BUT WILL ADVISE ANTICIPATED VOTING LINE-UP ONCE SURVEY COMPLETE.BASSIN

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